

MEMORIAL

OF THE

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILS OF BALTIMORE,

PRAYING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

A Navy Yard

AT THAT CITY.

FEBRUARY 13, 1826.

Printed by order of the Senate of the United States.

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1826.

MEMORIAL.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in
Congress assembled,*

The Memorial of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore,
RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That, having understood it is the intention of the General Government to establish some additional Navy Yards, for the purpose of building and repairing National vessels; and understanding a resolution has passed the Honorable the House of Representatives of the United States, instructing the Naval Committee to inquire into the expediency of locating a Navy Yard at the port of Baltimore, they would respectfully call the attention of your Honorable Body to the great advantages possessed by this port, which, in the estimation of your memorialists, render it peculiarly fitted for such an establishment, being situated upon a branch of a safe navigable river, and having a spacious harbor of sufficient depth of water, and completely protected by its natural position; possessing the greatest facilities for procuring ship timber and naval stores, in consequence of her proximity to, and great intercourse with, those places from whence such articles are obtained; having also within her limits and immediate vicinity several foundries, at which cannon and other implements of war may be forged, with several powder mills in the neighborhood, and a surrounding country furnishing the most abundant supplies of iron ore, and also capable of supplying the various articles necessary for provisioning and equipping vessels of war; numbering within our city first rate mechanics, to do every description of work in the most remote degree connected with the building and fitting out ships of war, men who are alike distinguished for their industry, science, and integrity; with numerous and extensive ropewalks, several of which are distinguished for the superior quality of the rigging manufactured by them, as tested by the experience of many years. Two of these establishments are constructed upon the most modern and approved plans, with patent machinery, and all in successful operation. With these qualifications, and a consciousness that Baltimore is eminently calculated, in consequence of her great local advantages, for a most efficient and serviceable establishment of the kind, your memorialists feel justified in recommending it, as such, to your consideration and notice. It is not the advantages that

Baltimore possesses, upon which alone are founded her claims for such distinction. It must be recollected by your Honorable Body, that she ranks as the third commercial city in these United States, and is steadily advancing to eminence and importance; that she contributes towards the support of Government by the large and increasing amount of import and tonnage duties which she annually pays into the National Treasury. Your memorialists have it from the very best authority, the average aggregate annual amount of receipts, after deducting the amount paid as drawbacks, for the last three years exceeds seven hundred thousand dollars, and that the nett receipts, from the flourishing condition of our commerce, will far exceed this amount during the current year. While your memorialists indulge a conscious pride in pointing out the capacities and resources of Baltimore, and her fiscal importance to the Union, it is with equal feelings of pleasure they would direct your attention to the patriotism and devotion of her people, in the most gloomy and disastrous periods of the war—to those periods of national calamity when a powerful enemy, rich in the science and all the means of war, was directing his undivided energies against the nation; to that period when he had penetrated to the Capitol, and laid it in ashes; a period which, even now, casts a gloom over the patriot's mind, as he takes a retrospective glance over the awful verge upon which the fate of his loved country rested; a treasury exhausted, the enemies' fleet riding in triumph in every bay and river, from Washington to the Capes; his armies landing whither they listed, driving the peaceful citizen from his home, and in many instances laying waste and desolate the domicile that had protected him from the elements; a period when the stoutest hearts were palsied with fear and trembling. It was at this period, and under these circumstances of national suffering, that the citizens of Baltimore generously sealed their devotion to these United States by the liberal application of their treasures, and their blood, to extricate their country from the disasters and difficulties she was then encountering.

It is scarcely necessary to call the attention of your Honorable Body to the sufferings, privations, and distresses, endured by our citizens during the whole continuance of the war, most of whom will be benefitted should the contemplated Navy Yard be established at this port; for they are identified with the system of embargo, non-intercourse, and war.

Your memorialists would state, that, prior to the establishment of the peace of 1815, there was a small Navy Yard located at this port; but, although it was not of sufficient importance or magnitude for its influence to be advantageously felt, the citizens of Baltimore never murmured, though several of her Atlantic sisters were at that time reaping the rich harvests of extensive establishments. That, small and unimportant as it was, has subsequently been withdrawn; but, as others are now to be erected, and almost every Atlantic State has an establishment of the kind located within them, your memorialists respectfully urge the claims of Baltimore, as the *emporium* of

Maryland, for a portion of the National patronage; believing, as they do, in all expenditures of the public money, due regard should be had to its equal distribution.

JOHN B. MORRIS,

President First Branch City Council.

THO. MOORE,

President Second Branch City Council.

TH. PHENIX,

Clerk First Branch.

R. WILSON,

Clerk Second Branch.

Approved, 9th February, 1826.

JOHN MONTGOMERY, Mayor.





